

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate distribution

DAIRY CATTLE: TISSUE SAMPLING UNITS (TSU) NOW AVAILABLE AT ATQ

Longueuil - February 13, 2015 – Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ) is proud to announce that new items to assist with animal DNA sampling will be available as of February 16, 2015. In doing so, ATQ is making **Tissue Sampling Units**, or TSUs, used for purebred animal genetic evaluations available to dairy producers.

It is interesting to note that the tissue sampling equipment, now available through ATQ, represents an option for “genotype testing” and is offered exclusively to dairy producers. It should be pointed out that this technology is a reliable and well-known industry method for submitting animal DNA samples for a genomic test. This test aims, in particular, to evaluate the parentage of purebred animals starting with an analysis of their genetic makeup.

Sampling units are sold in boxes of 10 or 30 units. The equipment contains small vials for sampling and preserving a tissue sample, taken from the animal’s ear. A specific set of pliers are required to take the samples, which are sold separately. Descriptions and prices for these new items are posted on the ATQ website at <http://www.atq.qc.ca/index.php/en/producers-stakeholders/forms>.

Finally, it should be mentioned that the genomic tests are not carried out at ATQ and that all DNA samples taken from animals must be sent directly to *Holstein Canada*. Furthermore, ATQ would like to remind producers and industry stakeholders that orders for tags and accessories, including tissue sampling units, must be made by telephone and for this you can contact Customer Service at 1-866-270-4319.

Steps to follow to request a genomic test

Animal DNA samples, accompanied by the genotyping request form, must be sent directly to *Holstein Canada*. Additional information about the genotyping services offered by the association as well as the steps to be taken to complete a request for a genomic test are available at <https://www.holstein.ca/Public/en/Services/Genotyping>, or by calling 1-855-756-8300 (ext. 603 for service in French).

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